

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 1402

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## AN ACT

To amend the Native American Languages Act to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Durbin Feeling Native  
3 American Languages Act of 2022”.

4 **SEC. 2. ENSURING THE SURVIVAL AND CONTINUING VITAL-**  
5 **ITY OF NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES.**

6       (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 106 of the Native Amer-  
7 ican Languages Act (25 U.S.C. 2905) is amended by add-  
8 ing at the end the following:

9       “(c) EVALUATION; REPORT.—Not later than 1 year  
10 after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Presi-  
11 dent shall—

12           “(1) require the heads of the various Federal  
13 departments, agencies, and instrumentalities to  
14 carry out an evaluation described in subsection  
15 (a)(1); and

16           “(2) submit to Congress a report that de-  
17 scribes—

18               “(A) the results of the evaluations; and

19               “(B) the recommendations of the Secretary  
20 of the Interior, the Secretary of Health and  
21 Human Services, and the Secretary of Edu-  
22 cation, after consultation with Indian tribes,  
23 traditional leaders, and representatives of Na-  
24 tive American language communities, for  
25 amendments to Federal laws that are needed—

1 “(i) to bring the Federal laws into  
2 compliance with this Act;

3 “(ii) to improve interagency coordina-  
4 tion for purposes of supporting revitaliza-  
5 tion, maintenance, and use of Native  
6 American languages; and

7 “(iii) to reduce duplication, inefficien-  
8 cies, and barriers Native American lan-  
9 guage communities face in accessing Fed-  
10 eral programs to support efforts to revi-  
11 talize, maintain, or increase the use of Na-  
12 tive American languages.”.

13 (b) SURVEY ON NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES.—  
14 The Native American Languages Act (25 U.S.C. 2901 et  
15 seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

16 **“SEC. 108. SURVEY ON NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES.**

17 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after  
18 the date of enactment of this section, and every 5 years  
19 thereafter, the Secretary of Health and Human Services,  
20 acting through the Commissioner of the Administration  
21 for Native Americans (referred to in this section as the  
22 ‘Secretary’), shall undertake a survey of the use of all Na-  
23 tive American languages in the United States.

24 “(b) UPDATES.—Prior to conducting each subse-  
25 quent survey after the initial survey under subsection (a),

1 the Secretary shall update the survey in accordance with  
2 this section.

3 “(c) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—The Secretary  
4 shall design the initial survey under subsection (a) and  
5 each updated survey under subsection (b)—

6 “(1) in consultation with Indian tribes; and

7 “(2) after considering feedback received from  
8 Native American language speakers and experts.

9 “(d) CONTENTS.—Each survey under subsection (a)  
10 shall solicit—

11 “(1) information on which Native American  
12 languages are currently spoken;

13 “(2) estimates of the number of speakers of  
14 each Native American language;

15 “(3) any language usage statistics or informa-  
16 tion that the Secretary, in consultation with Indian  
17 tribes and Native American language speakers and  
18 experts, determines to be relevant and appropriate;

19 “(4) information on the types of Native Amer-  
20 ican language maintenance and revitalization  
21 projects and practices that are currently being car-  
22 ried out;

23 “(5) information on any unmet Native Amer-  
24 ican language resource needs of Indian tribes and  
25 Native American language communities; and

1 “(6) any other information that the Secretary,  
2 in consultation with Indian tribes and Native Amer-  
3 ican language speakers and experts, determines to  
4 be necessary.

5 “(e) COORDINATION.—The Secretary may coordi-  
6 nate, and enter into cooperative agreements with, the Di-  
7 rector of the Bureau of the Census for the purposes of  
8 carrying out this section.

9 “(f) OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry  
11 out outreach and engagement activities to provide  
12 Indian tribes, Native American language commu-  
13 nities, and the public information about—

14 “(A) opportunities to provide input on the  
15 development and design of each survey under  
16 subsection (a), including information on the  
17 consultations required under subsection (c);

18 “(B) the goals and purpose of the surveys  
19 conducted under subsection (a); and

20 “(C) the benefits and importance of par-  
21 ticipation in surveys under subsection (a).

22 “(2) GRANTS, CONTRACTS, AND COOPERATIVE  
23 AGREEMENTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary may  
24 carry out the outreach and engagement activities re-  
25 quired under paragraph (1)—

1 “(A) directly;

2 “(B) in partnership with the Bureau of the  
3 Census; or

4 “(C) through grants to, or contracts or co-  
5 operative agreements with—

6 “(i) Indian tribes;

7 “(ii) tribal organizations; and

8 “(iii) nonprofit organizations that  
9 work with Indian tribes, Native American  
10 language programs, and Native American  
11 language communities.

12 “(g) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this section requires  
13 an Indian tribe, Native American language community, or  
14 Native American language speaker—

15 “(1) to participate in a survey under subsection  
16 (a); or

17 “(2) to provide specific or culturally sensitive  
18 information in completing such a survey.

19 “(h) AVAILABILITY OF SURVEY MATERIALS AND  
20 FINDINGS.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
22 the date of enactment of this section, and prior to  
23 conducting each survey under subsection (a), the  
24 Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Indian  
25 Affairs of the Senate and the Committees on Edu-

1 cation and Labor and Natural Resources of the  
2 House of Representatives, and make publicly avail-  
3 able, a description of—

4 “(A) the feedback received under sub-  
5 section (c) on the design of the survey;

6 “(B) the form and content of the survey;

7 “(C) the plan for deploying the survey to  
8 ensure a robust response; and

9 “(D) how the Secretary will ensure any  
10 survey enumeration efforts are culturally in-  
11 formed and appropriate.

12 “(2) RESULTS.—Not later than 90 days after  
13 the date on which analysis of each survey under sub-  
14 section (a) is completed, the Secretary shall submit  
15 to the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate  
16 and the Committees on Education and Labor and  
17 Natural Resources of the House of Representatives,  
18 and make publicly available, the results of the sur-  
19 vey.

20 “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
21 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
22 \$1,500,000 for each fiscal year—

23 “(1) preceding a fiscal year during which a sur-  
24 vey under subsection (a) is conducted; and

1           “(2) during which a survey under that sub-  
2           section is conducted.”.

Passed the Senate December 19, 2022.

Attest:

*Secretary.*



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